

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, IS, JO
SUBJECT: AMIDEAST WEST BANK/GAZA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 018125, (B) TEL AVIV 1071

1. POST GRATIFIED AID/W APPROVAL OF THIS PROGRAM.
2. BELIEVE CONCEPT OF PROGRAM CORRECT, I.E. TO START IN A MODEST AND LOW-KEY FASHION WITH POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE ADJUSTMENTS IN LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE.
3. WHILE SEVERAL QUESTIONS REMAIN, WE TRUST ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF GRANT WILL ACCELERATE ANSWERING THEM. OUR SUGGESTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS: WHILE RECOGNIZING NEED FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, WE SHARE HOLTAWAY'S AND EMBASSY TEL AVIV'S CONCERN ON DISPROPORTIONATE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS. ESTIMATE OF BASIC RESEARCH NEEDED MAY BE EXAGGERATED. BIR ZEIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR EXAMPLE, INFORMS US ITS RESEARCH DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY COLLECTED MANY BASIC STATISTICS ON EDUCATION IN THE WEST BANK. WE SUGGEST ESTIMATES OF TRIPS AND STAYS IN WEST BANK BE CONSIDERED MAXIMUMS AND,
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IF POSSIBLE, REDUCED. WE SUGGEST AID USE ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS OF OTHERS VOLAGS AS YARDSTICK TO DETERMINE JUSTIFIABLE AMOUNT FOR AMIDEAST.

(B) CONSULTATIONS WITH GOI. WE AGREE PARA 3, REF B THAT GOI AT APPROPRIATE TIME SHOULD BE INFORMED. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD BE DONE SO AS TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF GIVING GOI VETO

OR INVOLVING GOI IN DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION, E.G. SELECTION OF GRANTEES.

(C) RETURN OF GRANTEES: INITIAL GRANTS WILL BE GIVEN TO STUDENTS AT LOCAL INSTITUTIONS OR FOR STUDY IN U.S. BY FACULTY AND EXPERTS EMPLOYED IN WEST BANK/GAZA. THEREFORE, QUESTION OF RETURN WOULD NOT SEEM TO BE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM.

(D) SELECTION OF GAZA STUDENTS. WE UNDERSTAND FROM WEST BANK EDUCATORS THAT GAZA COLLEGE IS NOT YET OFFERING HIGHER EDUCATION. THEREFORE, INITIAL GAZA NOMINEES MIGHT BEST BE HANDLED THROUGH THE WEST BANK INSTITUTIONS THEY ARE ATTENDING. (WE ENVISION AN AMIDEAST COMMITTEE TO SCREEN APPLICANTS SUGGESTED BY INSTITUTIONS' SCHOLARSHIP BOARDS.) GAZA EXPERTS ARE NO DOUBT KNOWN TO EMBASSY OR EMBASSY CONTACTS.

(E) FULL COST OF EDUCATION VS. TUITION: SINCE INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT IS MAIN RATIONALE FOR ENTIRE PROGRAM, WE BELIEVE A GOOD CASE CAN BE MADE FOR FUNDING STUDENT'S FULL COST OF EDUCATION (OPERATING EXPENSES/NUMBER OF STUDENTS) RATHER THAN MERELY TUITION . (\$1350 VS. \$330 AT BIR ZEIT).

(F) FREED-UP FUNDS: BOTH BIR ZEIT AND BETHLEHEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED USES OF FREED-UP FUNDS. BETHLEHEM WOULD LIKE TO SUPPLEMENT SALARY OF ITS CURRENT TEFL EXPERT WHO WOULD NORMALLY DEPART WITHOUT SALARY TOP UP. BIR ZEIT HAS SUGGESTED AS ON POSSIBILITY MONEY COULD GO FOR ITS COMMUNITY LITERACY PROGRAM.

4. POST LOOKS FORWARD TO EARLY DISCUSSIONS OF THESE POINTS WITH AMIDEAST REPS PARKER AND MIZE AND EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE.
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